

10

## AMENDMENT

Please amend the following. Attached to this reply is "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**". Entry of the following is respectfully requested.

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs numbered 0017 and 0018 beginning at page 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

---

[0017] FIG. 2 is an overview illustration of an exemplary embodiment wherein a process chamber air diffuser contains a plurality of holes and a screw type means for securing the diffuser;

B1 [0018] FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of a method for employing the air diffuser of the present invention to provide substantially laminar air flow through a process chamber;

FIG. 4 is a view of a cross-sectional area of a received initial flow of air into a plenum; and

FIG. 5 is an overview illustration of a process chamber air diffuser containing a plurality of holes including holes having varying cross-sectional areas.

---

Please replace the paragraph numbered 0020 beginning at page 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

---

B2 [0020] Referring generally now to FIGS. 1 through 5, exemplary embodiments of the present invention are shown wherein an air diffuser is utilized to provide uniform airflow throughout a chamber, such as a process chamber for manufacturing semiconductor chips. Drawbacks to previous airflow systems have been the lack of uniformity in dispersing air in the chamber, which may lead to the entrainment of particles. Utilization of the present invention, eliminates turbulent airflow and allows for uniform airflow throughout the chamber. Additionally, the present invention has the capability of being easily retrofitted into chambers currently in use to make more efficient use of available resources.

---

Please replace the paragraph numbered 0024 beginning at page 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

---

b3 [0024] The air diffuser 102 may include a plurality of holes 110 through which the flow of air is directed into the chamber 112. In an embodiment, the air diffuser may form a plate with a plurality of holes penetrating through a first side and a second side of the plate. The plurality of holes 110 may be sufficient to reduce the flow of air initially received by the plenum 104. In further embodiments the plurality of holes 110 may range in size from 0.125 inches to 0.5 inches. In additional embodiments, the cross-sectional areas of the individual plurality of holes may vary as contemplated by one of ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention. See generally FIG. 5, wherein the plurality of holes include holes having various cross-sectional areas, such as aperture 210A.

---

Please replace the paragraph numbered 0033 beginning at page 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

---

b4 [0033] Once the airflow has been generated it may have an initial cross-sectional area as air is flowed into a plenum. Connected to the plenum, disposed in the airflow is an air diffuser with a plurality of uniformly spaced holes. Disposing the air diffuser 304 in the airflow may include utilizing a means for securing the air diffuser to the plenum to prevent accidental damage to process chamber contents and ensure the flow of air through the plurality of holes. The plurality of holes in the air diffuser may have a total cross-sectional area less than that of the initial cross-sectional area. See generally FIG. 4, wherein an initial flow of air passes through the plenum inlet. The cross-sectional area of the inlet 116 is less than the total cross-sectional area of the plurality of holes penetrating the diffuser 102.

---